

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

TERI KEALOHA SAHM,

Plaintiff,

v.

KARIM ALI, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. C22-1131 RSM

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
RECUSE

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Teri Kealoha Sahm’s Motion for Reassignment of Judge and Expedited Injunction. Dkt. #11. The Court considers the motion as a motion to recuse. Ms. Sahm states that the undersigned judge presided in a case she previously filed and issued an order dismissing the case with prejudice. *Id.* at 1–2 (citing *Sahm v. Onslow Bay Financial LLC, et al.*, Case No. 2:19-cv-02090-RSM).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 455(a), a judge of the United States shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality “might reasonably be questioned.” Federal judges also disqualify themselves in circumstances where they have a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 455(b)(1). However, “a judge’s prior adverse ruling is not sufficient cause for recusal.” *United States v. Studley*, 783 F.2d 934, 939 (9th Cir. 1986); *see*

1 also *Taylor v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 993 F.2d 710, 712 (9th Cir. 1993) (“To warrant recusal,
2 judicial bias must stem from an extrajudicial source.”).

3 As the Court reads Ms. Sahm’s Motion, she is relying solely on this Court’s prior
4 adverse ruling in a separate matter as evidence of bias. This is insufficient to warrant recusal.
5 See *Studley, supra*; *Taylor, supra*. Ms. Sahm presents no reasonable basis to question
6 impartiality. Accordingly, the undersigned judge declines to voluntarily recuse himself.
7

8 Ms. Sahm also seeks an expedited review of her requested injunction (Dkt. #8), which
9 is currently noted for consideration on September 30, 2022. See Dkt. #11 at 2. The Court
10 denies Ms. Sahm’s request for expedited review as her motion will be ripe in two days’ time
11 anyway.
12

13 Having reviewed the relevant briefing and the remainder of the record, the Court hereby
14 finds and ORDERS:

- 15 1. Ms. Sahm’s Motion for Reassignment of Judge and Expedited Injunction (Dkt.
16 #1) is DENIED.
- 17 2. In accordance with LCR 3(f), this Order is referred to the Honorable David G.
18 Estudillo, the chief judge in this District, for review of this decision. The Clerk
19 is directed to provide a copy of this Order to Judge Estudillo.
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22 DATED this 28th day of September 2022.
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25 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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